



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

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please call (636) 441-4554.*

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

November 2004 Volume 04, Number 11



I know it's cold outside, but that's no excuse for you to stop enjoying nature! On those days when it's drizzly, windy, cold and yucky, head to your local library and pick up some good books for you and the kids! Curling up with a good book by a warm fireplace is a wonderful way to enjoy nature when you can't get outdoors. Here are some of my favorite conservation books for children and young adults:

Preschool and Early Elementary:

What happens to a tree in the woods after it gets struck by lightening? *Once There Was a Tree* by Natalia Romanova, illustrated by Gennady Spirin tells the tale of how people and animals use a tree, even after it dies. It goes into detail of how many insects use a dead tree as their home. It is a great conservation book for kids because it asks the question, "Who 'owns' natural resources; people, animals, or nobody?"

In the Woods: Who's Been Here?

In the Snow: Who's Been Here?

Around the Pond: Who's Been Here?

Children love mystery books. Lindsay Barrett George has created several of these books where the reader is given clues about which animals have traveled through an area. They are fun to read, and great books for working with young children on making predictions and drawing conclusions.

Upper Elementary:

Just a Dream by Chris Van Allsburg shows how one person's actions can make a big difference to the future of our environment. A boy is stunned that his friend asks for a tree to plant for her birthday. That night he has a futuristic dream that presents a polluted world, for which he feels responsible because he litters and does not recycle. When he wakes up, he cleans up his neighborhood and plants his own tree. The book ends with a new futuristic dream, but this one shows a much nicer place to live.

Paddle-to-the-Sea by Holling Clancy Holling shows the journey of a canoe that a child carves and sets in the snow. When the snow melts, the canoe begins its journey through the Great Lakes to the ocean. Along the way, Paddle-to-the-Sea meets many animals and people, and sees the various industries near the water.

Young Adult:

Hatchet is the first book in a series by Gary Paulsen in which a boy is the sole survivor in a plane crash and must survive until he is rescued. The only tool he has to help him survive is a hatchet. Brian learns to build a fire, catch fish and live in harmony with nature.

California Blue by David Klass is about a boy who lives in a small logging town. He discovers a new species of butterfly in a part of the forest that is going to be cut. The Endangered Species Act is enforced, causing difficulties for the logging company and the whole town. It also leads to a conflict between the boy and his father, who works for the logging company.

Read these books with your children and discuss the conservation issues the books present. These books will hopefully lead to lots of good questions and excitement about our natural resources. Who knows...maybe the kids will even want to venture outside in the yucky weather to see what they can see!



Conservation Books For Kids

By Liz Lyons

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

6 Whodunit: Discovery Table
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Animal signs are like pieces of a puzzle. By reading the clues, we can uncover some of nature’s mysteries. (No reservations necessary.)

9 Painting the Birds
Tuesday 10:30 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 7-14) Discover how to sketch and paint a bird from a model. This program will help you capture your subjects and their habitats realistically. (Reservations Begin October 26.)

10 Talkin’ Trash
Wednesday 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Join us as we discuss ways to reduce trash and help wildlife at the same time. Please bring a clean, plastic gallon milk jug for a recycling craft. (Reservations begin October 27.)

13 Clark Hike & Winter Resident Birds
Saturday 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Join us for a refreshing 5.3-mile hike through the forests at Weldon Spring CA. We will be looking for birds that overwinter on the Area as well as bald eagles feeding along the Missouri River. The largest woodpecker in North America makes its yearly home in oak, hickory and maple forests of Weldon Spring and is frequently heard and sometimes seen on this trail. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin November 1.)

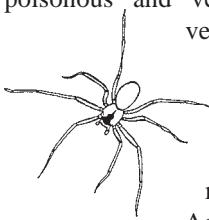
13 Scout Discovery Table: Poisonous & Venomous Things
Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Scouts) Do you know the difference between “poisonous” and “venomous”? How many different venomous snakes are there in Missouri? Can you identify poison ivy? What spider has a fiddle on its back? Learn the answers to these questions and many more. **Wolves:** Outdoor Adventure Elective 18g; **Webelos:** Naturalist #6; **Juniors:** Wildlife #5, Plants and Animals #9. (No reservations necessary.)

15 Turkeys
Monday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) Did you know that Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be our national bird? Learn what makes a turkey gobble...and how the turkey you eat for Thanksgiving is different from the turkey in the woods. Discover all about turkeys and make a fun craft to take home. (Reservations begin November 1.)

17 Playing ‘Possum
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 3-6) Opossums are different from any other animal in Missouri. Learn what makes them different and have fun playing ‘possum. (Reservations begin November 3.)

20 Owl Prowl
Saturday 6 p.m. – 7 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls. Come and learn how owls are specially designed for night activities. We will take a short hike on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and call in some owls. Warm clothing is necessary for the walk portion of this program. (Reservations begin November 8.)

29 Animal Art for Kids
Monday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 4-5) Press your hands to a piece of paper. Something great is bound to happen! By using wildlife as an inspiration for your artwork, you are bound to learn a lot about the animals you are creating. (Reservations begin November 15.)



Busch Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 300-1953 ext. 251
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS
May 1 through September 30
Friday through Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Tuesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
October 1 through April 30
Friday through Tuesday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

These hours are subject to change.
Please call the range for updated hours.

CLOSED DAYS
Wednesday and Thursday
All State Holidays

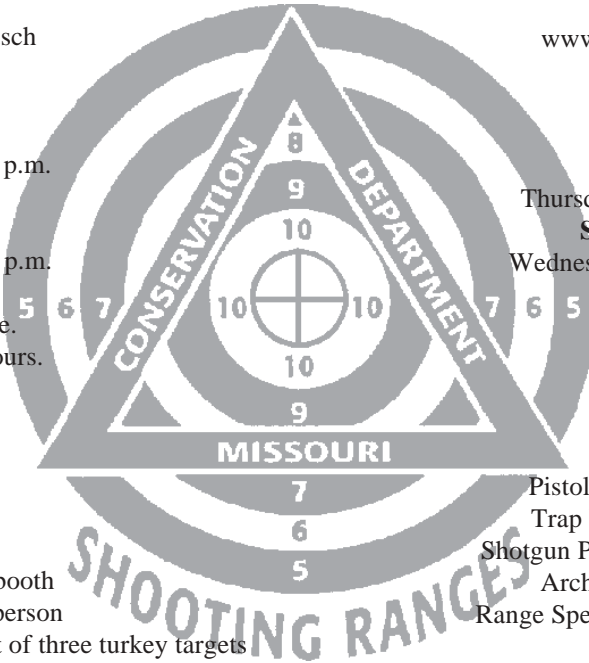
RANGE FEES
Rifle/Pistol Range: \$3 per hour/per booth
Trap/Skeet Fields: \$3 per round/per person
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per person for every set of three turkey targets
Special Use Permits: Please call to inquire.
Note: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit.
Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.

1100 Antire Road
High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

PUBLIC RANGE HOURS
May 1 through August 31
Wednesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
September 1 through April 30
Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

CLOSED DAYS
Monday and Tuesday
All State Holidays

RANGE FEES
Pistol/Rifle Range: \$3 per hour/per booth
Trap Range: \$3 per 25 targets/per person
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per hour/per person
Archery Range: \$3 per hour/per person
Range Special Use Permit: \$20 per hour/per permit
Building Use Permit: Inquire
NOTE: Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit
Trap Ranges: No shot size larger than 7 ½
Pistol/Rifle Range: No center fire ammunition large than .50 caliber
Ear & eye protection is required on all ranges.



Throughout November, enjoy outdoor shooting sports at our ranges.
Archery *Rifle/Pistol* Shotgun Patterning* Trap/Skeet

Ranges are closed on state holidays and for special events.
For program information, check our website: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

6 Making Natural Soap the Old-Fashioned Way

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(All Ages) Join us for a morning of fun as we try our hand at making soap the old-fashioned way. We'll explore how wildlife played a critical role in this process and how soap-making has changed today. Please dress for the weather, as portions of the program will be outdoors. (Reservations begin October 22.)

8 HOMESCHOOL Turkey Pen and Ink

Monday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Homeschoolers) Long ago, for people to write on paper, they had to make their own pens and ink. Although we can shop at the store for our own writing utensils, the ancient art still has its place. Join us at Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center, off I-44, as we transform turkey feathers and walnuts into pens and ink. (Reservations begin October 25.)



9 Frontiers: Wildlife Crime Scene Investigation

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Missouri owls have been getting a bad rep and are accused of a "wildlife crime." Join our naturalist in a "Wildlife C.S.I." and help the owls to be acquitted of these charges. (Reservations begin October 26.)

12 Making Native American Cordage

Friday 10 a.m. – Noon
(All Ages) Come learn how to make rope the way the Native Americans did. We'll learn how they used plants to make fishing lines and nets, bowstrings and more. We'll even try our hand at making some ourselves. (Reservations begin October 28.)

13 Woodworking with Nature

Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
(All Ages) Fallen trees or limbs, or unique-shaped leaves. Don't throw them away! Come learn some ideas about what to do with them. There will be a small project to take home. (Reservations begin November 1.)

13 Squirrels: Friend or Foe?

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(All Ages) How many creatures can sit in the shadow of a squirrel's tail? Who has two front teeth that grow 6 inches each year? Find out about our amazing squirrels and build a feeder to take home. (Reservations begin November 1.)



20 Turkey Trek

Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Families) Come join us for a pre-Thanksgiving hike on the Turkey Ridge Trail. We'll learn about these magnificent birds, and maybe even be lucky enough to spot some along the way! Please dress for the weather. Meet at the trailhead parking area. (Reservations begin November 8.)

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

2 Retiree River Ramble

Tuesday 9 a.m. – Noon
(Ages 60 & Up) Calling all folks over 60! Enjoy a leisurely 3-mile hike on the River's Edge Trail with other seniors to discover the unique wonders found at Columbia Bottom. This month we will be looking at the end of the fall colors and the waterfowl migration. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. (Reservations begin October 20.)

8 Homeschool Special: Oh Deer

Monday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Do you know what three things make up a habitat? Can you define the term "carrying capacity"? What do these words have to do with deer? They both play an important role in wildlife management. Discover what deer need to survive and how wildlife biologists manage the deer population in Missouri. (Reservations begin October 22.)

13 Focus on Optical Gifts

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 16 & Up) The gift-giving season is near and binoculars are very popular! Learn how to select the proper type for the outdoor person. Discover how binoculars work, what the numbers mean, and the two types in general use and the advantages of each. Cleaning and focusing procedures will be shown. Spotting scopes and tripods will also be discussed. (Reservations begin October 29.)



13 Discovery Table: Whitetail Wonderland

Saturday 3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.
(All Ages, Scouts) White-tailed deer abound at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Join us near the confluence parking lot for an enjoyable evening watching deer and learning about the largest game mammal in Missouri. Browse through displays and learn about a deer's physical attributes, habitat selection and herd management concerns. Bring your binoculars or peer through our spotting scopes to get an up-close look at these magnificent animals. (No reservations necessary.)

14 Discovery Table: Waterfowl Watching

Sunday Noon – 3 p.m.
(All Ages, Scouts) Did you know there are pathways, called flyways, that migrating waterfowl take across North America? The Mississippi Flyway, which includes Missouri, provides great waterfowl watching during the late fall and winter months. Come discover the new Bellefontaine Conservation Area as we watch waterfowl and other birds while learning more about ducks, geese, swans, flyways and migration. Bring your binoculars, field guides and a warm coat. Bellefontaine Conservation Area is located on Hwy. 367 about ½ mile south of I-270. (No reservations necessary.)

22 Gobble, Gobble!

Monday 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Do you like to eat turkey? Do you know what a wild turkey likes to eat? Can you yelp like a hen turkey or gobble like a tom turkey? Join us as we discover what life is like for a wild turkey, through stories and games. We will make some turkey tracks and other turkey crafts to take home. (Reservations begin November 5.)



Now available at Columbia Bottom: Teacher Discovery Trunks!

Lewis and Clark: Take your class on a journey of discovery with the Lewis and Clark Discovery Trunk. Learn to write with a quill pen, identify animal tracks and touch a beaver pelt. This trunk includes videos, books, and replicas of items used by Lewis and Clark.

Wild Mammals: Pelts and skulls and tracks—oh my! This trunk will take your class on the wild side of Missouri's mammals. Also included are books, videos and posters to help your class discover more about Missouri's wild mammals.

Wetlands: Help your class wade through all the fascinating wonders found in a wetland. Learn to identify frogs and toads by their calls; discover how wetland birds are adapted to the foods they eat; put on a wetland puppet show; and discover what a sponge, strainer, soap and pillow have in common with a wetland.

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

1 Hiking at Powder Valley:
Broken Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Hike to see natural gifts and winter shelters for early winter. (Reservations begin October 18.)

5 Otter Mania

Friday 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(All Ages) Please join us for a visit by Glenn Chambers, Biologist and Cinematographer. Glenn will be bringing a pair of live otters to demonstrate their unique characteristics. He will talk about the reintroduction program’s success and answer your questions! (Reservations begin October 22.)



6 Scout Discovery Table:
Endangered Species

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(Scouts) Are bald eagles and bison still endangered species? What about passenger pigeons or barn owls? Find the answers to these and other questions about endangered species in Missouri. **Bears:** Sharing Your World with Wildlife (Achievement #5e). **Brownies:** What’s Out There: Eco-explorer #5; and **Junior Girl Scouts:** Let’s Get Outdoors: Wildlife #6. (No reservations necessary.)

9 Pebble Pups:
Geology for Little Ones

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Pebble Pups study rocks through stories, activities and investigations. Our naturalist will lead Pups to explore nature through the identification and classification of rocks. (Reservations begin October 26.)

9 HOMESCHOOL
Geology: Becoming a Geologist

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Delve into geology through activities and investigations, both indoors and out. Along with our naturalist, classify and identify rocks and observe how geology has influenced Powder Valley’s forest and its wildlife. (Reservations begin October 26.)

10 Snake I.D.

Wednesday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Join our naturalist to explore Missouri snake identification. Don’t miss this opportunity to safely observe and touch a live snake. (Reservations begin October 27.)

10 Energy-Saving Caterpillars

Wednesday 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Ages 7-12) Share energy-saving ideas as cold weather approaches and sew an energy-saving caterpillar. (Reservations begin October 27.)

11 Ask the Naturalist

Thursday 10:30 a.m. – Noon & 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(All Ages) Have you found a critter or natural object and you can’t figure out what it could be? Bring it, photos or questions to our staff naturalist. (No reservations necessary.)

13 Fall Hike

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 7 & up) Just as we prepare for winter with heavy clothes, nature also prepares for winter. Join our intern naturalist on a hike on Hickory Ridge Trail to explore animal adaptations, migrations and hibernation. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin October 29.)

13 Artful Adaptations

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Adults) Artful adaptations assist animals. To find out how, join our interpretive programs supervisor in observing, studying and drawing live animals and mounts indoors and out. (Reservations begin October 29.)

13 Discovery Table: Owls

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
(All Ages) Learn about owls. Find out what owls eat. (Reservations begin October 29.)

16 Look: It’s a Bird!
It’s a Plane!

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
(Ages 3-6) No, it’s a seed! Discover the milkweed and how its seeds travel. We’ll be indoors for song and craft. Then, we’ll head outdoors. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin November 2.)

19 Owl Prowl at Emmy

Friday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(All Ages) Learn about owls and why they are good hunters. Join our staff naturalist at Powder Valley. After a brief introduction, we will drive to Emmenegger Park to call in some owls. (Reservations begin November 5.)



22 Hiking at Powder Valley:
Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) We will observe bird feeding inside before leaving to hike a beautiful trail. (Reservations begin November 8.)

23 Thanksgiving For the Birds

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Join us for a special holiday celebration just for the birds and you! (Reservations begin November 9.)

November Hallway Exhibit

Junior
Duck Stamps



Through the Lens of
Jim Rathert:
In Focus

Friday, December 3
7 p.m.

Join us to welcome Jim Rathert, MDC’s nature photographer. He will present a program about his new book, *In Focus*, followed by a book signing. As a Cub Scout, Jim remembers MDC filmmaker Charles W. Schwartz showing a conservation film at an awards ceremony. At that moment, it became Jim’s boyhood dream to be a *Conservationist* photographer. In 1984 that dream became reality and now Jim’s photos appear monthly in the magazine, bringing the beauty of nature as well as conservation values to thousands of readers. *In Focus* is a sampling of some of the most beautiful examples of Jim’s work. It is a must-see and would make a great holiday gift for anyone.

Jim Rathert Book Signing:

In Focus

Saturday, December 4
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Preparing for Winter

Saturday, November 6

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

By Joe Schleeper

Volunteer Naturalist

The weather gets colder, days get shorter and leaves turn color and fall off the trees. Soon, winter is here. Snow covers the ground. People live in warm houses and wear heavy coats outside. Our food comes from the grocery store. But what happens to the animals?

Animals do many different, amazing things to get through the winter. Some of them “migrate.” This means they travel to other places where the weather is warmer or they can find food. Many birds migrate in the fall. How do they know when it is time to leave for the winter? Many scientists see migration as part of a yearly cycle of changes a bird goes through that is controlled by changes in the amount of daylight and the weather.

Some birds, like the Arctic tern, fly very long distances. It nests close to the North Pole in the summer. In autumn, it flies south to Antarctica. In spring it returns north again. Most birds fly a much shorter distance. How do birds find their way to the same place every year? Many believe birds navigate using the sun, moon and stars. They also seem to use the Earth’s magnetic field. Other animals migrate, too. A few mammals, like some bats, caribou, elk and whales, travel in search of food. Many fish migrate. They may swim south, or move into deeper, warmer water.

Insects also migrate. Some butterflies and moths fly very long distances. The monarch butterfly spends the summer in the Northern U.S. and Canada and flies as far south as Mexico for the winter. Most insects migrate much shorter distances. Many, like termites and Japanese beetles, move downward into the soil. Earthworms also move down, some as far as six feet.

Some animals remain and stay active in the winter. They “adapt” to the changing weather. Many make changes in their behavior or bodies. Weasels and rabbits grow new, thicker fur in the fall.

Food is hard to find in the winter. Some animals, like squirrels, mice and beavers, gather extra food in the fall and store it for later. Rabbits and deer spend winter looking for moss, twigs, bark and leaves to eat. The red fox will change its diet. In the warmer months it will eat fruit and insects. In the winter, when this food is scarce, it will eat small rodents.

Animals may find shelter in holes in trees or logs, under rocks or leaves, or underground. To stay warm, squirrels and mice may huddle closer together.

Certain insects may stay active if they live in frost-free areas and can find food. Also, some fish may stay active in cold water in the winter.

Some animals “hibernate” for part or all of the winter. This is a very deep sleep where the animal’s body temperature drops, and its heartbeat and breathing slow down. It uses very little energy. In the fall, these animals will eat extra food and store it as body fat to be used for energy while hibernating. Bears, skunks, chipmunks and some bats hibernate.

There are many other interesting ways that animals use to survive the winter.

Come join us for crafts, story telling, songs and other activities. (No reservations necessary.)

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Bob Anderson.....2700 hours
Pat Harris.....3600 hours
Paula Lee.....1100 hours

Tom O’Gorman.....2900 hours
Art Paule.....3900 hours
Kristin Pierce.....400 hours

David Winkler.....1100 hours
Rosemary Witte.....2600 hours
Marjorie Yamada.....3800 hours